

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/975,160

Examiner

Apu M Mofiz

Applicant(s)

YOSHIURA ET AL.

Art Unit

2165

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 06/17/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2,4,5 and renumbered as 1-3.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on 12 October 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date <u>06/17/2004</u> | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                               |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material                                 | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|  | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Applicant's arguments filed June 17, 2004 have been fully considered and they are deemed to be persuasive.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. Claims 2,4,5 and currently renumbered as 1-3 are allowed over the prior art of record.

### ***Reasons For Allowance***

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for Allowance:

The present invention is directed to a search service provided by an electronic data search system including a search center and at least one authorization center. The closest prior art of records Bowen et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,094,649 teaches providing support for keyword searches of data items in a structured database, such as a relational database. The closest prior art of Walker et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,286,001 teaches a browser capable of accessing only web pages previously authorized by a parent or supervisor of a user of the browser. However, Bowen and Walker either singularly or in combination, fail to anticipate or render obvious the recited feature of a search center including 'a cancelled authorization registration tool for registering an address of electronic data deleted from the authorization database, in a cancelled-authorization database; a cache means that periodically accesses the authorization database of each authorization center, obtains contents of the authorization database of

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each authorization center, and holds the obtained contents in a storage device provided to the cache; and when a search request received by the search request receiving tool from a terminal of an information browsing person includes not only a search condition but also a condition that authorization by a certain authorization center is given, then, the search tool searches for address of electronic data that are registered in the search database being associated with the search condition, and, registered in the authorization center's authorization database held in the storage device by the cache, and further, not registered in the cancelled-authorization database of the authorization center of the independent claim 2 and 'the authorization center including a mark issuing tool for issuing an authorization mark having a link to the authorization center, to an information disclosing person who opens electronic data of which an address is registered in the authorization database through the authorization registration tool, and for permitting display of the authorization mark on the electronic data; in response to an information browsing person's operation of selecting an authorization mark displayed together with browsed electronic data, a terminal of the information browsing person transmits an authorization request that includes an address of the electronic data, to an authorization center linked to the authorization mark' of the independent claims 4 and 5. These features together with the other limitations of the independent claims 2,4 and 5 are novel and non-obvious over the prior arts of records.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Points of Contact***

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Apu M. Mofiz whose telephone number is (571) 272-4080. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Thursday 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici can be reached at (571) 272-4083. The fax numbers for the group is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.

Apu M. Mofiz  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 2175

November 09, 2004

*Sh* 11/10/2004  
SRIRAMA CHANDRAN JALA  
PRIMARY EXAMINER